

Spark Gap

Vol. 30, Issue 9, September 2013 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty years*

On Our MARC...

In the words of Linda Ellerbee, American journalist and former NBC News anchor, “And so it goes!” It hardly seems possible that it has been almost two years since I sat down to write the first “On Our MARC” column and now it’s time to write my last. My second term as club president is coming to an end and next month a new author will take my place, but before I go, I’d like to share some thoughts.

In October 2011, I said that the title of this column reflected that the MARC was not just about me, or the officers, or any single individual, but all of us. Never has that description been more fitting than it is today, for the MARC is filled with active, energetic members, and together we have accomplished much in the past two years. Our meeting room is filled each month, we’ve upgraded our repeater, our southern link is nearly complete, our radio room has been upgraded thanks to grant funding, and most impressively we have offered four, 1-day, Tech classes and brought more than 30 new hams into the hobby. I encourage each of you to reach over your shoulder and pat yourself on the back, as every one of you has had a hand in making the MARC one of the premiere radio clubs in Indiana.

It has been my pleasure to serve with an outstanding group of officers these past two years. I’d like to thank Dave Daily and Jack Parker for their work as VPs, Bruce Tisdale and Rhonda Curtis for keeping us on track as secretaries, Jacki Frederick for keeping our books in balance as treasurer, and Jay Chrisman and Steve Brown for keeping us radio-active, as repeater trustees. I would also like to thank Steve Carmean for serving as my mentor and sounding board. Thanks, too, to Bob LaGrange for serving as editor-in-chief of the Spark Gap, Matt Payne, as our webmaster, and Ron Schuetz, as our digital content specialist. And I would be remiss if I didn’t recognize the finest VE Team around, thanks to Rhonda and all, for their dedication and professionalism.

The MARC enjoys a wonderful relationship with the Johnson Co. EMA and the Sheriff’s Dept. Thanks to Tug Sutton, Stephanie Sichting, and Sheriff Doug Cox for their support, the use of the EOC, and for integrating us into the emergency-preparedness fabric of the county.

Thanks to the membership for your non-stop devotion to the MARC and your support of my initiatives these past two years. I’m sure you will show this same support to the new corps of officers that takes the helm next month. The best part of being the MARC president was the non-stop fun that I could count on at every meeting. I’m sure you’ll do your best to keep them laughing.

I leave you now with the words of Charles Osgood, the long-time anchor of “CBS News Sunday Morning” ...”I’ll see you on the radio!”

Bob - KC9NJM
President

Mid-State ARC picnic set for September 21, 2013

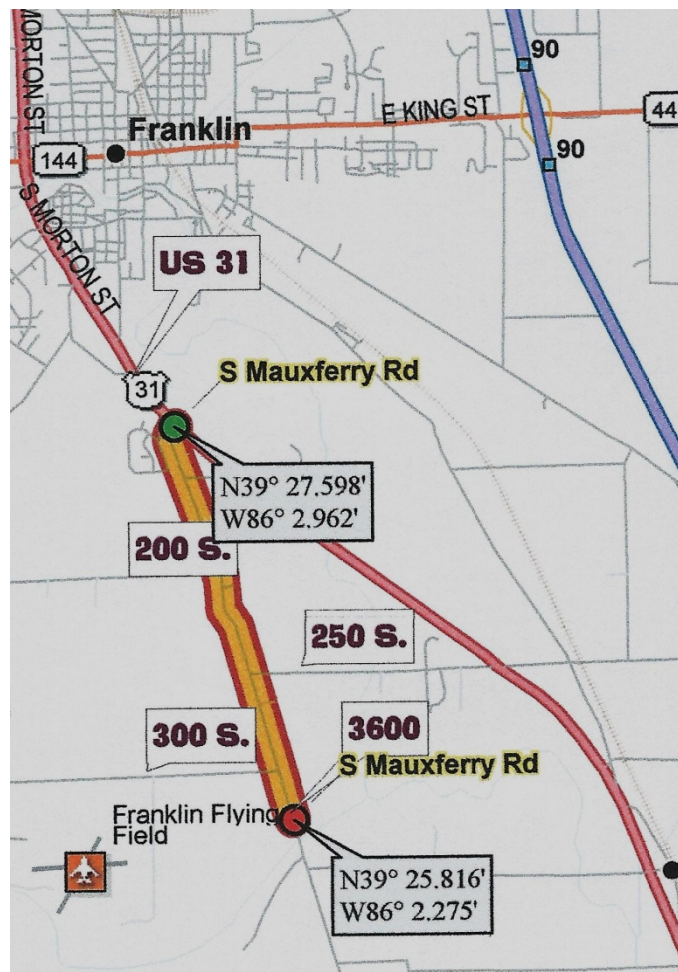
The annual MARC picnic will again be held at the home of Steve Brown N9LC beginning at 11am Saturday September 21st at **3600 S. Mauxferry Road Franklin, IN**. Please bring your spouse, a chair, and a covered dish to share and your choice of beverage. Talk-in on 146.835 repeater PL 151.4

The club is providing the meat. Chef Brown will handle the chore of cooking the burgers and hot dogs. Dining will be under the cover of the Brown barn with tables for dining. The supply of regular sized card table chairs is limited so you may want to bring a couple of those to enhance your dining pleasure.

Out-going club President Bob Jones will hold a short business meeting following the meal and introduce the newly elected officers.

There will be **VE testing** at the **EOC beginning at 9am** so club members and the VE team can attend the picnic. This picnic replaces the usual 8am meeting that day.

Hope to see you there. –w8ish



Repeater Link Finished!

Work on the Edinburgh Link site is complete. After eight hours on the 170 ft tower Mike Rose KC9WLR finished mounting the Ringo Ranger antenna, checking the hardline and re-sealing couplers for the VHF and UHF antennas. The thousand foot antenna elevation should give MARC excellent coverage in the southern half of Johnson county and adjacent counties. A new controller at the Repeater site will complete the installation. Our thanks to the repeater technical committee including Steve Ellis AF9SE, Steve Carmean K9DY, Steve Brown N9LC, Marc Snell KC9CCM, Jack Parker W8ISH and Bob Jones KC9NJM for all their hard work to pull this together under very hot conditions. Of course, no ham project is done without inclement weather.

The August 31, 2013 first day of installation took seven hours. Mike KC9WLR spent six of those hours climbing the tower to install the Ringo Ranger and check an existing hardline for use. More coax had to be added to reach the 170 foot antenna. At the end of the record hot day it was 94 degrees with a heat index of 101 degrees. While Mike was enjoying the view and a cool breeze the ground crew was dying of heat exposure.

The Yaesu 8800R dual band radio was installed and tested the following Saturday. It is programmed for cross-link operation. Problems were found in the hardline upon testing for SWR. Our crew spent September 7th removing a corroded N-connector on the shack end of the cable. It was repaired and Mike Rose climbed again on Sunday to reconnect the antenna to the hardline. Tests indicated a 1:1 reading. We are good to go. Next step is purchase the controller and plug it in. Link communications has developed a new controller with the options we desire. We hope to have it before the end of September. Stay tuned.
-w8ish

Thanks to Jack W8ISH for the pictures



Bob and his hoist



Jack cuts the mast



Steve Ellis cleans the hardline



Ellis & Rose prepare the Ringo



Perfect Match

GREENWOOD MARCHING BAND INVITATIONAL

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

I am still in need of volunteers for this event at the Greenwood HS. I will need of at least five more ham volunteers to assist in this event. Please see the August edition of the Spark Gap for more details. Your help with this event will be greatly appreciated by the many fans that attend. 73 Bob N9SIU

Local Nets FYI

INARES HF Voice Net

Repeats every week every Sunday until Sun Dec 29 2013 .

Sun 09-15 5:00pm IN-ARRL 80m SSB | 3.900 MHz IN Statewide

Tune in to the IN ARES HF voice net at 3.900 MHz LSB at 5:00 PM Eastern Time every Sunday.

Johnson County ARES Net

Repeats every week until Sun Dec 29 2013 .

Sun 09-15 7:00pm Mid States ARC | 146.835 MHz Johnson

Hamilton County ARES Net

Repeats every week every Sunday until Sun Dec 29 2013 .

Sun 09-15 8:00pm Hamilton Co ARES 2m | 145.170 MHz Hamilton

\The Hamilton County ARES Net is every Sunday at 2000 hours on the 145.170 (PL77) repeater which is linked to the 443.550 (PL77) repeater.

IN-ARRL CW Traffic Net QIN (evening)

Repeats every day until Tue Dec 31 2013 .

Sun 09-15 8:00pm IN-ARRL CW | 3.535 MHz IN Statewide

For more information, go to: <http://indianacw.net>

IN-ARRL CW Traffic Net QIN (morning)

Repeats every day until Tue Dec 31 2013 .

Mon 09-16 9:30am IN-ARRL CW | 3.535 MHz IN Statewide

For more information, go to: <http://indianacw.net>

Shelby County ARES Net

Repeats every week until Mon Dec 30 2013 .

Mon 09-16 7:30pm Blue River ARC 2m | 145.480 MHz Shelby

Hendricks County ARES Net

Repeats every week every Tuesday until Tue Dec 24 2013 .

Tue 09-17 7:30pm Hendricks Co ARS | 147.015 MHz Hendricks

Check-ins, announcements

Hancock County ARES Net

Repeats every week every Tuesday until Tue Dec 24 2013 .

Tue 09-17 7:30pm Hancock ARC primary 2m | 145.330 MHz Hancock

Indianapolis 220 net

Repeats every week every Tuesday until Tue Dec 24 2013 .

Tue 09-17 8:00pm K9XV | 224.800 MHz Marion

Dust off your 220 rig and join Steve Curtis ND9C on 224.800 MHz (88.5 Hz PL tone) every Tuesday evening at 8:00pm. The 224.800 repeater is usually linked to the 147.210 repeater for this net, so even if you don't have a 220 radio, you can join in.

Newsline

Repeats every week until Wed Dec 25 2013 .

Wed 09-18 7:00pm Indianapolis Repeater Assoc 2m | 146.700 MHz Marion

[link:Amateur Radio Newsline] news broadcast.

Marion County ARES and Information Net

Repeats every week until Wed Dec 25 2013 .

Wed 09-18 7:30pm Indianapolis Repeater Assoc 2m | 146.700 MHz Marion

Morgan County ARES

Repeats every week until Wed Dec 25 2013 .

Wed 09-18 8:00pm Morgan RA 2m | 147.060 MHz Morgan

INARES HF Digital Net

Repeats every month every Wednesday until Wed Dec 25 2013 .

Wed 09-18 8:30pm IN-ARRL Digital | 3.583 MHz IN Statewide

Mode: OLIVIA 500/8 (mode may change at discretion of net control)

Use of FLDigi / FLMSG programs is expected to fully participate in this net. Operators using other software will not be able to copy and extract messages sent in standard template format using error detection.

Operators proficient with FLDigi and who have robust digital stations on 80m should contact Larry WB9FHP during the net and offer to serve as net control occasionally. This is the Indiana ARES Digital Net and we need to share the load and responsibility for maintaining this net.

Boone County ARES Net

Repeats every week every Thursday until Thu Dec 26 2013 .

Thu 09-19 8:00pm N9HLL | 147.105 MHz Boone

Marion County IDHS RACES Net

Repeats every month on the first Sunday until Sun Dec 01 2013 .

Sun 10-06 7:00pm District 5 VHF | 147.210 MHz District 5

This RACES Net is open to all licensed amatuer radio operators. It is for the testing of equipment and the disemenation of information.

IDHS RACES Monthly Net

Repeats every month on the second Sunday until Sun Dec 08 2013 except Sun Jan 08 2012, Sun Jul 08 2012.

Sun 10-13 6:00pm IDHS RACES 80m SSB | 3.920 MHz IN Statewide

The purpose of the net is to evaluate Indiana amateur radio disaster communications through the RACES program and to pass traffic and information.

All Indiana county EMA Directors or their designated representatives only are asked to check-in to this net.

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M.A.R.C. OFFICER ELECTION

ANNUAL PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 21, 2013

2013 HAMFESTS

- September 7** **Michiana Amateur Radio Club Hamfest**, Elks Club Lodge#235,
3535 E. McKinley Ave., South Bend, IN , 8 AM til 1 PM, contact Bob at
kb9iva@sbcglobal.net or 574-674-2835
- October 5** **Hoosier Hills Hamfest**, Lawrence County 4H Fairgrounds,
11261 US Hwy 50 West., Bedford, Indiana <http://www.w9qyq.org/>
- Nov. 16-17** **Indiana State Convention, Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo.**
Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, Indiana
<http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com/>



MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a HAM to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL Tone

Club Officers:
President: Robert Jones – KC9NJM
Vice President: Jack Parker – W8ISH
Secretary: Rhonda Curtis– WS9H
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee: Steve Brown – N9LC

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

*P.O. Box 836
Franklin, Indiana
46131*

Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month

